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AF/S FOR HTREGER
INL FOR EROESS AND PPRAHAR
JUSTICE FOR OIA, AFMLS, AND NDDS
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SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE: 2005-2006 INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL STRATEGY REPORT (INCRS) -- PART I

REF: STATE 209558

II. Summary

Mozambique is a transit country for illegal drugs such as hashish, herbal cannabis, cocaine, mandrax (methaqualone), and heroin consumed in Europe and South Africa. Some illicit drug shipments passing through Mozambique may also find their way to the United States and Canada. The country's porous borders, poorly policed seacoast, and inadequately trained and equipped law enforcement agencies facilitate transshipment of narcotics. Drug production is limited to herbal cannabis cultivation and a few mandrax laboratories. Available evidence suggests significant use of herbal cannabis and limited consumption of "club drugs" (ecstasy/MDMA), prescription medicines, and heroin among the urban population. The Mozambican government recognizes drug use and drug trafficking as serious problems, but has limited resources to address these issues. The U.S., the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and other donors have established cooperation programs to improve training of drug control officials and provide better interdiction and laboratory equipment. Despite these efforts, drug trafficking interdiction performance has improved only slightly in the past year. Corruption in the police and judiciary continues to hamper counternarcotics efforts as has the elimination of visa requirements for South African and Mozambican citizens traveling between those two countries. Mozambique is a party to the 1988 UN Drug Convention.

II. Status of Country

Mozambique is not a significant producer of illegal drugs. Herbal cannabis for local consumption is produced throughout the country, particularly in Tete, Manica, and Zambezia provinces. Limited amounts are exported to neighboring countries, particularly South Africa. There are indications that small quantities of a low quality ecstasy are being manufactured in Southern Africa, with Mozambique as a possible producer. Mozambican authorities took steps during the year to reduce local production of mandrax by raiding facilities and seizing production equipment. Mozambique's role as a drug-transit country has continued to grow. Southwest Asian producers ship cannabis resin (hashish) and synthetic drugs through Mozambique to Europe and South Africa. Limited quantities of these shipments may also reach the United States and Canada. Reports from the Mozambican

Office for the Prevention and Fight Against Drugs (GCPCD) indicate that heroin and other opiate derivatives shipped through Mozambique originate in Southeast Asia. Drugs cultivated in Southeast Asia then typically transit India, Pakistan, or the United Arab Emirates and later Tanzania, before arriving by small ship or, occasionally, overland to Mozambique. Traffickers are most commonly of Tanzanian or Pakistani origin. Increasing amounts of cocaine from the Andean region are sent with couriers on international flights from Brazil to Mozambique, sometimes via Lisbon, before being transported overland to South Africa. Mozambique has become a favored point of disembarkation because of its lax airport security control. Drug traffickers have recruited many young women in Maputo to work as couriers to and from Brazil. Mozambique is not a producer of precursor chemicals.

Mozambique has seen growing abuse of heroin among all levels of urban populations. The abuse of methaqualone continues to be a matter of concern for countries in Southern Africa. Methaqualone, which is usually smoked in combination with cannabis, continues to enter South Africa from India and China, and some shipments of the substances pass through Mozambique. Increasing amounts of cocaine from Brazil and Colombia are smuggled through Portugal into Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa, primarily Angola and Mozambique, then into South Africa. This year's agreement between South Africa and Mozambique to drop visa requirements has complicated interdiction and enforcement efforts, as information on individuals crossing borders has become even more limited.

III. Country Actions Against Drugs in 2005

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Accomplishments. Mozambique's accomplishments in meeting its goals under the 1988 UN Drug Convention remain limited, though drug interdiction efforts have improved over the last year. Government resources devoted to the counternarcotics effort remain inadequate, and only limited donor funds are available. Police and border officials did make some drug seizures throughout the year, particularly cocaine from Brazil. The Mozambican government carries out drug education programs in local schools in cooperation with bilateral and multilateral donors as part of its demand reduction efforts.

Law Enforcement Efforts. Mozambique's drug unit operates in Maputo and reports to the Chief of the Criminal Investigation Police. With assistance from the UNODC, drug detection equipment was installed at border posts, ports, and airports in 2002 and 2003. In 2004, customs officers at Maputo airport and seaport received drug interdiction training under a UNODC program. In July 2005, a 57-person specialized police unit designed to strengthen efforts to fight organized crime, including narcotrafficking, was introduced at airports in provincial capitals. In the first nine months of 2005, Mozambican authorities seized a total of 29.5 kilograms of cocaine at the Beira and Maputo airports. As interdiction efforts improve at the Maputo airport, traffickers have been forced to identify alternate points of entry, including Beira, Nampula, Quelimane and Vilankulos. Publicized seizures in 2005 include:

- The March seizure of 10 kilograms of cocaine in the "Colombia" neighborhood in Maputo city.
- The April seizure, at Maputo airport, of 1.8 kilograms of cocaine, carried by a 40 year old woman of unknown nationality arriving from Brazil.
- The May arrest at the Beira airport of a 39 year old Mozambican woman arriving from Brazil with 74 capsules of cocaine in her stomach.
- The June arrest at the Beira airport of a 20 year old Mozambican woman arriving from Brazil with 48 capsules of cocaine in her stomach.
- The seizure of 800 kilograms of cannabis sativa at the Changara/Moatize border post.

More than a dozen individuals were reportedly detained at the Beira and Maputo airports in connection with drug smuggling activities in 2005, most of whom were women caught carrying capsules of cocaine in their stomachs from Brazil. It is unclear how many of the suspects detained are incarcerated at this time. In November, local newspapers reported that two Mozambican women caught carrying cocaine from Brazil had been sentenced by the Sofala Provincial Court to lengthy prison terms for drug trafficking. Since the beginning of the year, five such "mules" of Mozambican nationality have died from overdoses while carrying cocaine.

Corruption. Corruption is pervasive in Mozambique. However, Mozambique has continued efforts to prosecute police and customs officials charged with drug trafficking offenses. The trial of four officers charged with selling the proceeds of a large Pakistani shipment of hashish began in February. In September, a Mozambican customs official in Tete province was reportedly sentenced to 16 years in prison on drug trafficking resulting from a 2004 mandrax smuggling charge. The official was accused of unlawfully taking into his possession mandrax seized by customs during a routine stop at a checkpoint in Tete province. As official policy, Mozambique seeks to enforce its laws against narcotics trafficking, but as noted above, confronts difficulties in doing so more effectively.

Agreements and Treaties. Mozambique is a party to the 1988 UN Drug Convention, the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Mozambique has signed, but has not yet ratified, the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the UN Convention Against Corruption.

Cultivation/Production. Cannabis is cultivated primarily in Tete, Manica, and Zambezia provinces. The Mozambican government has no estimates on crop size. Intercropping is

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the most common method of production. Mozambican authorities have made efforts this year to eradicate cannabis crops through controlled burns.

Drug Flow/Transit. Assessments of drugs transiting Mozambique are based upon limited seizure data and observations of local and UNODC officials. Mozambique increasingly serves as a transit country for hashish, cannabis resin, heroin, and mandrax originating in Southwest Asia, owing to its long, unpatrolled coastline, lack of resources for interdiction and sea, air, and land borders, and growing transportation links with neighboring countries. Drugs destined for the South African and European markets arrive in Mozambique by small ship, mostly in the coastal areas in northern Cabo Delgado province, but also in Nampula, Sofala, and Inhambane provinces.

The Maputo corridor border crossing at Ressano Garcia/Lebombo is an important transit point. Hashish and heroin are also shipped on to Europe, and some hashish may reach Canada and the United States, but not in significant quantities. Arrests in Brazil, Mozambique and South Africa indicate cocaine is being trafficked by drug couriers from Colombia and Brazil to Mozambique, often through Lisbon and Johannesburg, for onward shipment to South Africa. In addition, Nigerian and Tanzanian cocaine traffickers have targeted Mozambique as a gateway to the South African and European markets.

Domestic Programs (Demand Reduction). The primary substances of abuse are alcohol, nicotine, and herbal cannabis. Heroin, cocaine, and "club drug" usage and prescription drug abuse are also reported across Mozambique's urban population. The GCPD has developed a drug education program for use in schools and with high risk families; the program includes plays and lectures in schools, churches, and other places

where youths gather. It has also provided the material to a number of local NGOs for use in their drug education programs. The Mozambican Office for the Prevention and Fight Against Drugs (GCPDC) has received some support for community policing and demand reduction from bilateral donors. Drug abuse and treatment options remain limited with the GCPDC providing treatment assistance and reintegration programs for approximately 200 families affected by drug addiction in 2005.

IV. U.S. Policy Initiatives and Programs

Bilateral Cooperation. The USG continues to sponsor Mozambican law enforcement officials and prosecutors to attend regional training programs through the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) for Africa in Botswana. Law enforcement officials have also received training at ILEA New Mexico. The State Department's Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) provides support to the attorney general's anticorruption unit and the police sciences academy (ACIPOL) near Maputo. The funds have provided for training, specialized course instruction, instructor development, and curriculum development for ACIPOL. The anticorruption unit, which began operations in November 2002 has received specialized training and advisor visits through the Department of Justice OPDAT (Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training) program. In September, the unit was restructured into the Corruption Fighting Central Office and received for the first time line item funding from the state budget.

The Road Ahead. The U.S. will continue working with ACIPOL to provide training and technical assistance, in 2006, in the areas of drug identification and investigation, as well as other areas of criminal sciences. The U.S. will conduct a community policing program in Maputo which will include specialized training for police officers and the delivery of 50 special purpose built bicycles. Technical assistance programs at the police academy will focus on methods to foster better relations between the community and the police. Among other topics, courses provided by technical specialists will include drug interdiction. U.S. assistance in support of the anticorruption unit will continue in 2006, with plans to place a short-term regional legal advisor at the unit for a period of six months. The U.S., using INL funds, is working

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with the Government of the Republic of Mozambique to improve its border security efforts. The U.S. is also supporting the Mozambican authorities in addressing issues of coastal security.

La Lime